

Attorney Docket No. 1-74168

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 through 36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36 53, wherein the step of over-molding the hinge includes over-molding scrim material within the hinge.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 34 53, wherein the airbag assembly includes an airbag module housing having a closed end and an open end, a plurality of outwardly extending mounting hooks being formed at the open end, wherein the airbag chute includes a plurality of hook-receiving apertures for receiving the hooks, wherein the hinge includes a plurality of elongated hook-receiving apertures for receiving the hooks, the hook-receiving apertures of the hinge extending inboard of the hooks such that the hinge is movable between a retracted position and an extended position relative to the chute, and wherein the hook-receiving apertures allow movement of the airbag chute relative to, and unrestrained by the hooks when the hinge moves between the retracted position and the extended position.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 40 55, wherein the hinge and the airbag chute are formed from the same material.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein the substrate is formed from a first material, the outer layer is formed from a second material, and the hinge and the airbag chute are formed from a third material.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 42, wherein the third material is different from the first material and the second material.

Attorney Docket No. 1-74168

44 through 46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 40 55, wherein the airbag assembly includes an airbag module housing having a closed end and an open end, a plurality of outwardly extending mounting hooks being formed at the open end, wherein the airbag chute includes a plurality of hook-receiving apertures for receiving the hooks, wherein the hinge includes a plurality of elongated hook-receiving apertures for receiving the hooks, the hook-receiving apertures of the hinge extending inboard of the hooks such that the hinge is movable between a retracted position and an extended position relative to the chute, and wherein the hook-receiving apertures allow movement of the airbag chute relative to, and unrestrained by the hooks when the hinge moves between the retracted position and the extended position.

48 and 49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48 56, wherein the first and second materials are the same material.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48 56, wherein the step of injecting the second material into the second cavity includes inserting scrim material within the second cavity.

52. (New) A method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle comprising:

a. providing a substrate defining an airbag door, the substrate having a passenger-compartment-facing first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface; and

Attorney Docket No. 1-74168

b. simultaneously over-molding an outer layer on the first surface of the substrate and a hinge on the second surface of the substrate, the hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag, wherein the hinge and the outer layer are formed from the same material, and wherein the substrate includes an aperture, such that the material flows through the aperture from one of the hinge and the outer layer to the other of the hinge and the outer layer during over-molding, thereby defining the airbag assembly and trim component.

53. (New) A method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle comprising:

a. forming a substrate in a mold, the substrate defining an airbag door and having a passenger-compartment-facing first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface; and

b. simultaneously over-molding in the mold an outer layer on the first surface of the substrate, and a hinge on the second surface of the substrate, the hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag.

54. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein the substrate is formed from a first material, and the hinge and the outer layer are formed from a second material different from the first material.

55. (New) A method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle comprising:

a. providing a substrate defining an airbag door, the substrate having a passenger-compartment-facing first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface; and

Attorney Docket No. 1-74168

b. simultaneously over-molding an outer layer on the first surface of the substrate, over-molding a hinge on the second surface of the substrate, the hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag, over-molding scrim material within the hinge, and over-molding an airbag chute for mounting the airbag assembly with the outer layer and the hinge, the airbag chute being formed on the second surface of the substrate with the hinge, wherein the hinge and the outer layer are formed from the same material, and wherein the substrate includes an aperture, such that the material flows through the aperture from one of the hinge and the outer layer to the other of the hinge and the outer layer during over-molding, thereby defining the airbag assembly and trim component.

56. (New) A method of forming an airbag assembly and trim component for a vehicle comprising:

- a. providing a mold assembly having a mold cavity;
- b. placing a substrate defining an airbag door into the mold cavity to define first and second cavities, the substrate having a passenger-compartment-facing first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface;
- c. simultaneously injecting a first material into the first cavity to form an outer layer on the first surface, and injecting a second material into the second cavity to form a hinge on the second surface of the substrate, the hinge for retaining the airbag door on the substrate during deployment of an air bag.